

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554**

In re Application of)	
)	
EchoStar Satellite Corporation)	File No. SAT-STA-20000614-00104
)	
Request for Special Temporary Authority)	
To Operate the EchoStar 6 Direct Broadcast)	
Satellite at 148° W.L. for an Eight-Week)	
Period.)	
)	

ORDER AND AUTHORIZATION

Adopted: July 11, 2000

Released: July 12, 2000

By the Chief, Satellite and Radiocommunication Division:

1. EchoStar Satellite Corporation (“EchoStar”) requests a Special Temporary Authority (“STA”) to operate the EchoStar 6 Direct Broadcast Satellite (“DBS”) at 148° W.L. for an eight-week period for the purpose of conducting an In-Orbit Test (“IOT”) over all 32 channels. EchoStar was granted authority to launch EchoStar 6 and operate it at the 110° W.L. orbital location.¹ EchoStar has recently requested modification authority to operate the satellite at the 119° W.L. orbital location.² This request will be addressed in a future order and action on this STA request is without prejudice to EchoStar’s request for permanent authority at 119° W.L.

2. EchoStar is currently authorized to operate 24 of the 32 DBS channels at 148° W.L. (1-17 odd and even channels and 19-31 odd channels).³ EchoStar states that no other DBS licensee has authority to use the 148° W.L. orbital location, nor is any other licensee expected to obtain authority to use this location in the eight weeks following the launch of EchoStar 6. Thus, EchoStar will be able to conduct testing of all 32 transponders without causing harmful interference to any other satellite operators. Furthermore, EchoStar

¹ See *Application of MCI Telecommunications Corporation, Assignor, and EchoStar 110 Corporation, Assignee, Order and Authorization*, FCC 99-109 (released May 19, 1999) (MCI/EchoStar Order).

² See *EchoStar Satellite Corporation, Application for Minor Modification of DBS Authorizations, Launch and Operation Authority* (filed June 7, 2000), File No. SAT-MOD-20000607-00099.

³ See *EchoStar DBS Corporation*, 12 FCC Rcd. 11946, 11947 n.3 (1996); see also *EchoStar DBS Corporation*, 11 FCC Rcd. 16291, 16295 (1996).

argues that proper testing is necessary to comply with requirements set forth by its insurers and to ensure that EchoStar 6 will function as planned.

3. We find it is in the public interest to grant EchoStar's request to conduct an IOT at the 148° W.L. orbital location. The 148° W.L. orbital location is currently vacant. There are no operational DBS satellites at or near this location and no such operations are expected during the requested eight-week period. In addition, operations under this STA will be on a non-harmful interference basis. Therefore, we grant EchoStar's request for Special Temporary Authority.

4. Accordingly, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 0.261 of the Commission's rules of delegated authority, EchoStar's Request for Special Temporary Authority to Operate the EchoStar 6 Direct Broadcast Satellite at 148° W.L. for an Eight-Week Period, File No. SAT-STA-20000614-00104, IS GRANTED consistent with the terms and specifications set forth in its application subject to the following conditions:

- (a) that no harmful interference shall be caused to any lawfully operating radiocommunication systems and operations shall cease immediately upon notification of such harmful interference;
- (b) this authorization is subject to change in any of its terms or cancellation in its entirety at any time upon reasonable notice, but without hearing, if in the opinion of the Commission, circumstances should require;
- (c) this temporary authority shall commence on the date EchoStar notifies the Commission that the EchoStar 6 satellite has reached the 148° W.L. orbital location and that testing has begun, and will terminate 60 days from that date;
- (d) this temporary authority is only for testing purposes and shall not be used for provision of commercial service;
- (e) any extensions of this authorization must be requested and approved in writing.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Thomas S. Tycz
Chief, Satellite and Radiocommunication Division
International Bureau